

REMARKS

Status of Claims

By way of the instant amendment, claims 20 and 22 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 14, 16-19, 21 and 23-26 remain for examination. Of these claims, claim 14 is the sole independent claim.

Results of Interview

Claim 14 has been amended in accordance with the results of the interview held with the Examiner on June 4, 2004. In that interview, the Examiner agreed that amending the claim would overcome the prior art rejections. The Examiner, however, indicated that an RCE application should be filed since the claim would present new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

Applicant has filed concurrently with this amendment the RCE application as discussed with the Examiner.

Claim 14 is the sole independent claim in the application. It is submitted that claim 14 is allowable over the art of record. Claims dependent therefrom are likewise deemed allowable.

Conclusions

It is submitted that application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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